

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 47, 49, 51, 56, 58, and 60 and add claims 64 and 65, as follows:

46 (previously added): A method comprising:

providing a telephone apparatus having a handset, a handset-receiving portion and a hands-free audio interface;

while the handset is received by the handset-receiving portion, communicating audio input and audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface; and

in response to the handset being removed from the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call, muting the audio input and maintaining to communicate the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface.

47 (currently amended): The method of claim 46 44 further comprising:

in response to the handset being replaced to the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call, unmuting the audio input to the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface.

48 (previously added): A telephone apparatus comprising:

a handset;

a handset-receiving portion;

a sensor to sense if the handset is removed from the handset-receiving portion;

a hands-free audio interface; and

a telephone circuit responsive to the sensor to communicate audio input and audio output to the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the handset is received by the handset-receiving portion, and to mute the audio input and maintain communicating the audio output of the telephone call

via the hands-free audio interface in response to the handset being removed from the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call.

49 (currently amended): The telephone apparatus of claim 48 46 wherein the telephone circuit is to unmute the audio input to the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the handset being replaced to the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call.

50 (previously added): An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium; and

computer-readable data stored by the computer-readable storage medium, the computer-readable data to direct a telephone apparatus having a handset, a handset-receiving portion and a hands-free audio interface to communicate audio input and audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the handset is received by the handset-receiving portion, and in response to the handset being removed from the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call, to mute the audio input and to maintain communicating the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface.

51 (currently amended): The article of manufacture of claim 50 48 wherein the computer-readable data is further to direct the telephone apparatus to unmute the audio input to the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the handset being replaced to the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call.

52 (previously added): a method comprising:

providing a telephone apparatus having a handset, a handset-receiving portion and a hands-free audio interface;

while the handset is removed from the handset-receiving portion, muting audio input and communicating audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface; and

in response to the handset being replaced to the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call, unmuting the audio input and maintaining to communicate the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface.

53 (previously added): A telephone apparatus comprising:

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- a handset;
- a handset-receiving portion;
- a sensor to sense if the handset is received by the handset-receiving portion;
- a hands-free audio interface; and
- a telephone circuit responsive to the sensor to mute audio input and communicate audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the handset is removed from the handset-receiving portion, and to unmute the audio input and maintain communicating the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the handset being replaced to the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call.

54 (previously added): An article of manufacturing comprising:

- a computer-readable storage medium; and
- computer-readable data stored by the computer-readable storage medium, the computer-readable data to direct a telephone apparatus having a handset, a handset-receiving portion and a hands-free audio interface to mute audio input and communicate audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the handset is removed from the handset-receiving portion, and to unmute the audio input and to maintain communicating the audio output of

the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the handset being replaced to the handset-receiving portion during the telephone call.

55 (previously added): A method comprising:

providing a telephone apparatus having a hook switch and a hands-free audio interface;

while the hook-switch is depressed, communicating audio input and audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface; and

in response to the hook switch being released, muting the audio input and maintaining to communicate the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface.

56 (currently amended): The method of claims 55 ~~53~~ further comprising:

subsequent to the hook switch being released, unmuting the audio input to the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the hook switch being depressed.

57 (previously added): a telephone apparatus comprising;

a hook switch;

a hands-free audio interface; and

a telephone circuit responsive to the hook switch to communicate audio input and audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the hook switch is depressed, and to mute the audio input and maintain communicating the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the hook switch being released.

58 (currently amended): The telephone apparatus of claim 57 ~~55~~ wherein, subsequent to the hook switch being released, the telephone circuit is to unmute the audio input to the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the hook switch being depressed.

59 (previously added): An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium; and
computer-readable data stored by the computer-readable storage medium, the computer-readable data to direct a telephone apparatus having a hook switch and a hands-free audio interface to communicate audio input and audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the hook switch is depressed, and in response to the hook switch being released, to mute the audio input and to maintain communicating the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface.

60 (currently amended): The article of manufacture of claim 59 ~~57~~ wherein the computer-readable data is further to direct the telephone apparatus to unmute the audio input to the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the hook switch being depressed subsequent to the hook switch being released.

61 (previously added): A method comprising:
providing a telephone apparatus having a hook switch and a hands-free audio interface;
while the hook switch is released; muting audio input and communicating audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface; and
in response to the hook switch being depressed during the telephone call, unmuting the audio input and maintaining to communicate the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface.

62 (previously added): A telephone apparatus comprising:
a hook switch;
a hands-free audio interface; and
a telephone circuit responsive to the hook switch to mute audio input and communicate audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the hook switch is released, and to unmute the audio input and

maintain communicating the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the hook switch being depressed.

63 (previously added): An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium; and

computer-readable data stored by the computer-readable storage medium, the computer-readable data to direct a telephone apparatus having a hook switch and a hands-free audio interface to mute audio input and communicate audio output of a telephone call via the hands-free audio interface while the hook switch is released, and to unmute the audio input and to maintain communicating the audio output of the telephone call via the hands-free audio interface in response to the hook switch being depressed.

64 (new): The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of communicating a second audio input via the handset.

65 (new): The method of claim 64, further comprising the step of communicating a second audio output via the handset.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 3 as shown in red on the attached drawing sheet.